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# THE MUSICAL TIMES

AND

## Singing Class Circular.

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### MUSIC CONTAINED IN THE PREVIOUS NUMBERS OF THE "MUSICAL TIMES."

- No. 1. In these delightful pleasant groves.....Purcell
2. Hear my prayer, O Lord.....Winter
3. Soon as I careless stray'd .....Festa  
Hail! all hail! thou merry month of May .Weber
4. Thou art gone to the grave.....Beethoven  
Hear what God the Lord .....V. Novello
5. Hail! smiling morn.....Spofforth
6. Let all men praise the Lord .....Mendelssohn  
Forgive, blest shade.....Dr. Calcott
7. Four rounds, for three voices
8. Call to remembrance .....Farrant
9. Pleasures of Innocence .....From the German  
Amidst the myrtles .....Battisbill
10. Teach me, O Lord .....Rogers
11. Here in cool grot .....Lord Mornington

All communications of the progress of Singing Class Teaching, addressed to the Editor of the Musical Times, 69, Dean Street, Soho, will be interesting.

## ON LUTHER'S LOVE FOR AND KNOWLEDGE OF MUSIC.

BY A GERMAN STUDENT.

ONE of the most remarkable features in the peculiarly constituted mind of Martin Luther, was his love for and knowledge of music. Several passages in his "Table-Talk" may be cited in proof. Luther says,—

"He who despises music, as all scoffers do, delighteth me but little; for music is a gift and present from God, and not the gift of man. So therefore doth it drive away the devil, and maketh a man joyful. It maketh him to forget all anger, impurity, pride, yea, and all other vices. After theology, I give the next place and highest honour to music. The notes give life to the

words, and we see how David and all the saints have clothed their holy thoughts in verse, rhyme, and song. *Quia pacis tempore regnat Musica.*"

And in another passage of the same work, he repeats not only his admiration of music, but declares he possessed some small skill in it. "Music is a lovely and noble gift of God's, and nigh to theology. I would not for a great deal give up my poor knowledge of it. Youth should be employed continually in the practice of this art, for it maketh a fine and clever people." Nor was it only as an instrument for making men wiser and better, that Luther estimated the science of song so highly; he looked upon it as a certain means of dispelling evil thoughts and temptations to error. "The devil," said Luther, "is a doleful spirit, and maketh men miserable, therefore he cannot abide joyousness. Whence it ariseth that he fleeth before Musica as far as possible, and abideth not where there is singing, especially of spiritual songs. Thus David assuaged the troubles of Saul, when the devil vexed him."

Luther has also communicated his opinion in his celebrated eulogium entitled "Lobrede auf die Musik," which is translated here from Forkel's work.

### MARTIN LUTHER'S DISCOURSE IN PRAISE OF MUSIC.

"To all lovers of the liberal art Musica, do I, Doctor Martin Luther, wish grace and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

"I would gladly with all my heart, laud and praise this beauteous and lovely gift of God, the liberal art Musica; for I find that the same hath many and great advantages, and is so noble and distinguished an art, that I know not how to begin, or how to desist, or in what manner or form I may so praise it, as it is fitting it should be praised, and made to be held dear and worthy by all men, and am so overloaded with the richness of praise of this art, that I cannot sufficiently exalt and praise it; for who can say and declare all which might be said and written on this subject? And though any one should be ever so willing to declare and point out every thing, yet would he nevertheless forget many things—for *in summa* it is impossible that any

one may or can sufficiently praise and exalt this noble art.

For, in the first place, if the matter be rightly considered, it will be found, that this art was given of God, from the beginning of the world, to all and every creature, and that it was created withall from the beginning; for there is not any thing in the world, which does not of itself give forth a sound and a noise; nay, not even the very air, which, though in itself invisible and incomprehensible, contains within itself music, that is fair sound and noise, for though it appeareth still and noiseless, yet if it be moved or troubled by anything, it giveth forth its music, its tones; and that which was before dumb, the same is heard and becometh a Musica; so that we may then hear and perceive, that which was before not to be heard, nor to be perceived; by which means the Spirit manifests wondrous and great mysteries, of which I will not now treat.

"In the second place—the musical sound and song of animals, and of birds particularly, is yet more wonderful. Oh what a noble music is that, wherewith the Almighty ruler of heaven hath graced his singing master, the nightingale, and the many thousand birds of the air; since every species hath its own peculiar melody, its rare sweet voice and dainty expression, such as no man on earth can conceive; as King David, that precious musician, who on his psaltry and timbrel sang and played aloud his godly songs, himself beareth witness, and that with great admiration and a joyous spirit. Speaking of the songs of the birds, where in the 104th psalm he prophesieth and saith as follows:—'By men shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches.'

"What too shall I say of the voice of man, compared with which all other songs, sounds, and voices are as naught; for the same hath God gifted with such music, that his unparalleled and inconceivable goodness and wisdom therein neither may nor can be understood; for though the philosophy and men of learning have striven hard and sore troubled themselves to search out and comprehend the wondrous work and mechanism of the human voice, how it cometh to pass, that the air through such a slight and common movement of the tongue, and thereafter through a yet more common movement of the throat or neck, can of itself give forth in so varied a form and manner, according as it is governed and directed by the feelings, and that too so forcibly and powerfully, words, sound, song, and melody, that they may be heard around far and wide by every body distinctly; nay not only heard, but comprehended and understood. But they have alone understood that it were good to search out this, but nevertheless they have not discovered it. Neither has it ever happened unto any one to be

able to say and declare whence cometh man's laughter, (for his weeping I will say nought) and how it happens that man laughs: this indeed do they wondrously admire, but that is all, for they cannot search it out. I have here endeavoured to display briefly the immeasurable wisdom of God in the formation of this one creature, which if we had more time, we ought to consider at greater length.

"Now shall I discourse to you of the advantages of this noble art, which are so great, that there is no one, be he ever so eloquent, who may sufficiently declare them. The only one I can now point out to you, which experience also testifieth unto us, is, that according to the sacred word of God, there is nothing which can be so fairly and highly praised and exalted as music, and namely for this reason, that over all the feelings of the human heart (of the irrational animals I will here say nothing) she is a ruler, who is mighty and powerful, through whose influence men are oftentimes governed and controlled, as it were by their lords and masters.

"For there is nothing on earth which hath greater power to make the sorrowful glad, and the glad sorrowful—and the faint-hearted to be of good cheer,—to charm the haughty to humility—to still and assuage the warmth and exorbitance of love—to diminish envy and hatred—and who can enumerate all the movements of the human heart which govern mankind, and either lead them to virtue or tempt them to vice; but, for the government and keeping under control all these emotions, I repeat, that there is nothing more powerful than music. Yea, the Holy Spirit himself praiseth and honoureth this noble art, as the instrument of his service, in so far, that He teacheth in the sacred writings, that his gifts, that is, the moving and exciting to all virtues and good works, were given to the Prophets through music, as we see in the prophet Elisha, who, when he would prophecy, commanded that they should bring unto him a musician, and when the musician played upon the strings, the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha. And again the Scriptures tell us, that Satan, by whom people are tempted to all misdoings and vices, may be expelled by music, as was shown in the case of king Saul, upon whom when the Spirit of God came, then David took up his harp and played with his hand, so that Saul was quickened, and it was better with him, and the evil spirit departed from him. Therefore have the holy fathers and the prophets not in vain employed the word of God in various songs and playing of instruments, in order that music might ever abide in the Church: wherefore have we then so many precious songs and Psalms, which, both with words, and with sound and melodies, delight the heart of man. In the unreasonable brutes, however, and in stringed

instruments, and in other instruments, we hear only the sound, and the song, and the melody, but nought of speech or words; for unto man alone of all creatures, hath a voice with speech been given, that he might know how, and be able to praise God, both with singing and words, namely, with clear sounding discourses; and should celebrate God's goodness and mercy, to the doing of which choice words and lovely melodies are most fitly employed."

(To be Continued).

### BRIEF CHRONICLE OF THE LAST MONTH.

**GLOUCESTER.**—There was a most successful meeting of the Choral Class attached to the Mechanics' Institution in Gloucester on the 26th February. It gives us much pleasure to observe that each of the three towns of Gloucester, Hereford, and Worcester, are exerting themselves to cultivate a body of good local chorus singers, for we have often expressed our opinion that, by such means alone can the interesting Festival of the meeting of three choirs be continued. Purcell's "In these delightful;" and Mendelssohn's "Let all men praise the Lord;" (both of which have appeared in our musical pages), were amongst the pieces encouraged on the 26th.

We notice the formation of several classes for choral practice under the direction of Mr. Clarke (a disciple of Mr. Hullah) in the Eastern part of London. His pupils, members of the East London Upper School, sang a selection of music at The Sussex Hall, Leadenhall Street, on the 13th March, to the satisfaction of their friends.

**ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.**—At the First Concert of the season, on the 15th of March, the selection comprised, the Kyrie and Gloria, from Beethoven's Mass in C, and selection from Rossini's "Stabat Mater," and Spohr's "Vater Unser."

**PURCELL'S MAGNIFICENT JUBILATE IN D**, was performed by the Sacred Harmonic Society at Exeter Hall, on the 5th March, together with a selection from Handel, &c.

The last of the SACRED CONCERTS for this season took place at Crosby Hall on the 12th March. Boyce's fine anthem, "If we believe that Jesus died;" the first chorus in Spohr's "Last Judgment;" Mendelssohn's Duet—from the "Lobgesang"—"I waited for the Lord;" may be cited as good specimens from a programme most carefully selected.

The **ETON AND WINDSOR AMATEUR CHORAL SOCIETY** gave their fourth public performance on the 12th March, under the direction of Dr. Elvey, assisted by some of the gentlemen of the Chapels Royal. This society is doing much to improve the musical taste of the neighbourhood.

**LIVERPOOL.**—The first undress concert of the Philharmonic was given on the 10th of March, consisting of a Selection from Handel's "Deborah," the Second Part of Spohr's "Last Judgment," and a selection from Mendelssohn's "St. Paul."

**HULL SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.**—We are glad to hear of the increasing prosperity of this Society, which bids fair to revive all the popular interest for choral singing which formerly distinguished this town.

The **NORWICH FESTIVAL** will commence on the 16th of September. Conductor, Mr. Jules Benedict.

M. C. E. Horn's new oratorio, "Satan," was produced by the Melophonic Society on the 18th of March.

**WORCESTER TRIENNIAL MUSICAL MEETING.**—It is arranged that the triennial meeting of the three choirs of Worcester, Hereford, and Gloucester, shall be held in the Worcester Cathedral and College Hall, on the 26th, 27th, and 28th of August next.

The Worcester Harmonic Society, now numbering nearly 70 vocal members, will in future hold their meetings at the large room of the City and County Reading Institution, in Pierpoint Street, where an organ is being built for their use by Mr. Nicholson, of this city. The Society, which is under the superintendence of Mr. Done, cathedral organist, and Mr. E. Rogers, the conductor, will prove to be highly useful at the approaching festival.—*Worcester Journal*.

**GRESHAM PRIZE MEDAL.**—We are glad to see that this inducement to the composition of Cathedral Music is to be given this year; the terms for candidates will be found amongst our advertisements.

**PERGOLESI.**—An interesting private performance took place on the 18th of March, at the Hanover Square Rooms, of a sacred oratorio, under the name of "Calvary," adapted by its author, Mr. T. F. Barham, to Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater." Of course the private nature of the performance precludes criticism, but we may record the crowded state of the rooms, and that the whole of the arrangements were under the care of Mr. J. Alfred Novello, a zealous musician and admirable vocalist, on whom the satisfactory manner in which every thing was accomplished, reflected the highest credit.—*Musical World*.

**HANDEL'S ORATORIOS**, as performed by the Sacred Harmonic Society, Exeter Hall, and Mr. HULLAH's Classes; arranged for the Organ or Pianoforte, with Vocal Score, by DR. JOHN CLARKE, of Cambridge, and MR. G. PERRY.

The Messiah .....	Folio	12	0
Acis and Galatea .....	"	7	6
Alexander's Feast .....	"	12	0
L'Allegro ed il Penseroso .....	"	20	0
Judas Maccabæus .....	"	21	0
Israel in Egypt .....	"	21	0
Dettingen te Deum .....	"	8	0
Jubilate .....	"	6	0
Samson .....	"	21	0
Jephtha .....	"	21	0
Saul .....	"	21	0
Solomon .....	"	21	0
Esther .....	"	21	0
Athalia .....	"	21	0
Theodora .....	"	21	0
Coronation and Funeral Anthems .....	"	16	0
Deborah .....	"	21	0
Creation—Haydn (by E. Sturges) .....	"	21	0

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